IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA NEWPORT NEWS DIVISION

BOBBY BLAND, DANIEL RAY CARTER, JR., DAVID W. DIXON, ROBERT W. McCOY, JOHN C. SANDHOFER, and DEBRA H. WOODWARD,

Plaintiffs,

CASE NO. 4:11-CV-45

V.

B.J. ROBERTS, individually and in his official capacity as Sheriff of the City of Hampton, Virginia,

Defendant.

DEPOSITION UPON ORAL EXAMINATION OF KENNETH P. RICHARDSON, TAKEN ON BEHALF OF THE PLAINTIFFS

Virginia Beach, Virginia

October 12, 2011

Appearances:

PATTEN, WORNOM, HATTEN & DIAMONSTEIN, L.C. By: JAMES H. SHOEMAKER, JR., ESQUIRE Counsel for the Plaintiffs

PENDER & COWARD

By: JEFFREY A. HUNN, ESQUIRE

Counsel for the Defendant

15 Q. And are they scheduled to last a particular long is that course? 16 amount of time, or do they just last as long as they 16 A. A week. 17 need to last? 17 And is that at the -- that's at the Hampton Q. 18 18 A. Last as long as they need to last. Roads Criminal Justice Training Academy? 19 Q. 19 Does anyone take notes or minutes of these A. Yes, sir. 20 20 meetings? O. Have you ever attended basic law 21 21 enforcement -- the basic law enforcement class? A. I think the staff all might write down 22 22 notes. A. 23 23 Q. Is anyone charged with keeping formal Q. What is a master deputy? 24 minutes of these meetings? 24 Best that I can recall is the individual A. 25 A. 25 has been there at least three years, that shoots I No.

A. No, sir. 14 Q. Sheriff Roberts went through an election 15 back in fall of 2009. Do you remember that? 16 A. 17 Q. Were you a captain then or a major then? 18 A. I think I was a captain. 19 Q. All right. And did your duties differ from 20 the duties you have today? 21 My duties increased today. Based on my --22 based on my rank and my position.

How so? How did your duties change when

Just responsible for more things.

you went from captain to major?

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A. I'm not sure about the resumé, but the 14 application package, yes. 15 And then once they do that, they interview 16 the applicants? Does the hiring board interview all 17 the applicants? 18 A. Yes, that I know of. Yes. Everybody comes 19 before us. 20 So the hiring board does not weed out 21 people they think are just not qualified for an

I don't understand your question.

Well, I'm trying to get an idea of the

scope of the tasks performed by the hiring board. And

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interview? Or do they?

A.

5 (Pages 14 to 17)

Does a major have to be on all hiring

I'm going to switch gears here and I'm

going to ask you questions about the Hampton sheriff's

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Q.

boards?

A.

Q.

No.

All right. And how many hiring boards can

Did you sit on any hiring boards in 2009?

you remember having sat on?

Several.

I know that's tough.

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A.

Q.

And, apparently, on that occasion he

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Q.

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prior to that?

when a Deputy Kemper went before a disciplinary board for a reason? A. Kemper. Are we talking about for the same

issue?

24 Q. No, I'm not sure what the issue was with 25 Deputy Kemper. Do you remember Deputy Kemper ever

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A.

Q.

Are you aware of any Hampton sheriff's

What deputies are you aware of or employees

office employees who have been disciplined as a result

of the early or improper release of prisoners?

A.

No.

I'm not sure because I honestly don't

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he probably wasn't disciplined?

Do you remember it having something to do

with her being insubordinate to a Sergeant Snelling or

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involved in a car accident?

The answer is what?

Q.

Q. Between September 1, 2009, and the end of 2009 -- well, let me go back to Bobby Bland. At any time in 2009 did anyone seek your opinion or your input or assessment as to whether or not Bobby Bland should be reappointed in the Hampton sheriff's office? A. No. At any time in 2009 did anyone seek your input or assessment as to whether or not Danny Carter should be reappointed to his position within the

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Hampton sheriff's office?

Yes.

A.

Did you mention Danny Carter's name in that meeting?

MR. HUNN: Objection, form. What meeting? You are now talking about two meetings?

BY MR. SHOEMAKER:

You raised it. You said it was probably in a staff meeting where you gave input. Right?

> Let me start over. MR. HUNN: Sure.

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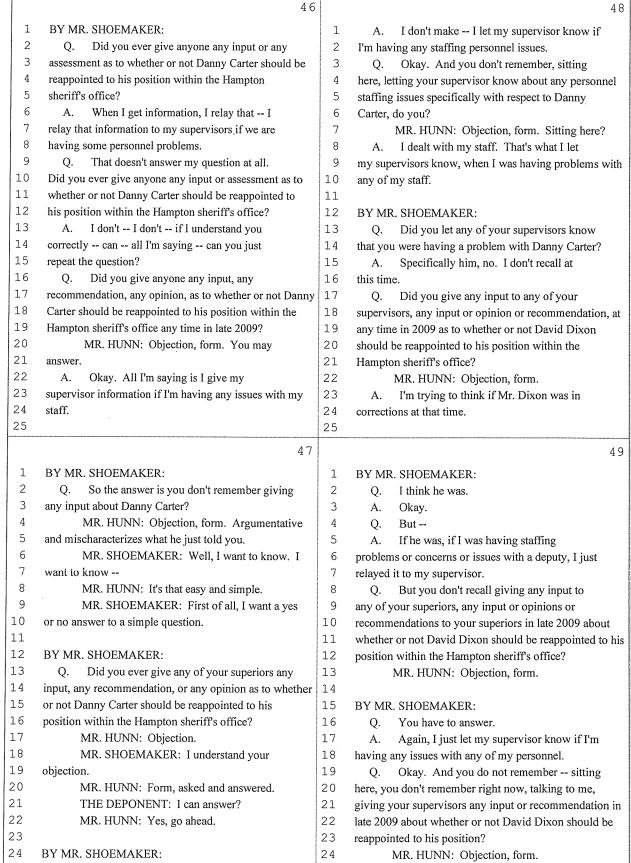
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I let my supervisors know if I was having

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Yes.

15 MR. HUNN: I can talk to him about anything 16 I want to talk to him about but not the question. 17 MR. SHOEMAKER: There's a question on the 18 table. 19 MR. HUNN: Answer the question before you 20 go to the bathroom, if you can. 21 Again, any staffing issues that I was 22 having with the people under me, I let my supervisor 23 know that I was having some problems with them.

24

25

- A. No.
- Okay. In the second half of 2009 either at a senior staff meeting or on any other occasion, do you ever remember giving any of your senior officers any recommendation or input as to whether Robert McCoy, Deputy Robert McCoy, should be reappointed to his position within the Hampton sheriff's office?
- Again, if we were having discipline problems, that's what I brought up to my supervisor.
- But you don't have any specific recollection of giving a recommendation regarding

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1 A. Lieutenants and my interaction with my 2 staff. 1 Q. Is that parking lot not the sheriff's 2 property?	v _F 00045-RAJ-TEM Document 29-19 Filed				23/11	Page 15 of 23 PageID# 630 56
2 senior staff meeting? 3 A. If I was having problems, I'm sure I 4 brought it up to my supervisors. 5 Q. But you don't remember specifically doing that, sitting here? 6 A. He could have been. 8 Q. He could have been, but you're not sure? 9 A. Yeah. 10 Q. Is that right? 11 A. 'Cause I again, I was having problems with several officers. 12 with several officers. 13 Q. Okay. 14 A. And I'm pretty sure 15 Q. You're pretty sure what? 16 A. Can I finish my question? 17 Q. You mean your answer? 18 A. My answer. 19 Q. Okay. 20 A. If I was having again, if I was having problems weren't reappointed I just bring the information of to my supervisor. 24 Q. And you would have gotten this information from one of your lieutenants? 25 A. Just issue we have a roster, and I just give everybody five tickets and just ask them to go ahead and sell the tickets for me. 26 Q. And where would you do this, at shift change meetings? 27 A. Like this year we just did everything outside in the parking lot. We were never inside the building? 28 A. I shaid this year. 29 Q. Okay. What about in 2008? 21 A. I said this year. 20 Q. Okay. What about in 2008? 22 A. I think in the past, yeah. And I've done it because I was just getting started. And I I was responsible for that. 29 Q. And in past years you've done it at shift change meetings? 20 A. Could have been. I'm not sure. 21 Q. In past years you've done it in the buildings? 22 A. Yes. 23 A. Yes. 24 Q. And you would have gotten this information from one of your lieutenants? 25 A. Yes. 26 A. Yes. 27 A. Like this year we just did everything outside in the parking lot not the sheriff's property?	1	Robert	t McCoy either in the second half of 2009 or at a	1	Q.	And how would you go about doing that?
3 A. If I was having problems, I'm sure I 4 brought it up to my supervisors. 5 Q. But you don't remember specifically doing 6 that, sitting here? 7 A. He could have been. 8 Q. He could have been, but you're not sure? 9 A. Yeah. 10 Q. Is that right? 11 A. 'Cause I again, I was having problems 12 with several officers. 13 Q. Okay. 14 A. And I'm pretty sure 15 Q. You're pretty sure what? 16 A. Can I finish my question? 17 Q. You mean your answer? 18 A. My answer. 19 Q. Okay. 10 Q. Okay. 11 A. Could have been. 12 Q. Okay. 13 A. Could have been it be building? 14 A. Can I finish my question? 15 Q. You mean your answer? 16 A. Can I finish my question? 17 Q. Okay. 18 A. My answer. 19 Q. Okay. 20 A. If I was having again, if I was having problems because there were several guys that weren't reappointed I just bring the information to my supervisor. 24 Q. And you would have gotten this information from one of your lieutenants? 25 Tan. Lieutenants and my interaction with my 2 staff. 28 give everybody five tickets and just ask them to go ahead and sell the tickets for me. Q. And where would you do this, at shift change meetings? A. Like this year we just did everything outside in the parking lot. We were never inside the building. 10 Q. You never did it inside the building? A. I think in the past, yeah. And I've done it because I was just getting started. And I I was responsible for that. Q. And in past years you've done it at shift change meetings? A. Could have been. I'm not sure. Q. In past years you've done it in the buildings? A. Yes. 20 Q. And it's your testimony here under oath today that the only times you did it in 2009 was in the parking lot? A. Yes. 57 1 A. Lieutenants and my interaction with my staff.	2	2 senior staff meeting?		2	-	
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24 Q. And you would have gotten this information 24 parking lot? 25 from one of your lieutenants? 55 A. Yes. 77 A. Lieutenants and my interaction with my 2 staff. 1 Q. Is that parking lot not the sheriff's 2 property?	T .	Ti y		1	Q.	And it's your testimony here under oath
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1 A. Lieutenants and my interaction with my 2 staff. 1 Q. Is that parking lot not the sheriff's 2 property?	25	from on	ne of your lieutenants?	25	Α.	Yes.
2 staff. 2 property?			55			57
- property.	1	A.	Lieutenants and my interaction with my	1	Q.	Is that parking lot not the sheriff's
	2	staff.		2	property	y?
Q. Who were your lieutenants in December in 3 A. I'm assuming it's city property.	3	Q.	Who were your lieutenants in December in	3	A.	I'm assuming it's city property.
4 November and December of 2009? 4 Q. So in 2009 when you did it, you did it in a	4	Novemb	ber and December of 2009?	4	Q.	So in 2009 when you did it, you did it in a
5 A. Lieutenant Mitchell was one. Lieutenant 5 city parking lot?	5	A. Lieutenant Mitchell was one. Lieutenant		5	city par	king lot?
6 Cooke. Lieutenant Lewis. And I don't recall who the 6 A. Are we talking about 2009 or?	6			6	A.	Are we talking about 2009 or?
7 fourth one was. 7 Q. My question right now is about when you	7	fourth one was.		7	Q.	My question right now is about when you
8 Q. So your lieutenants were Mitchell, Cooke, 8 solicited employees to sell golf tournament tickets for	8	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		8	solicited	d employees to sell golf tournament tickets for
9 and Lewis, and you don't remember who the fourth one 9 you, you told me you did it in the parking lot. What	9	and Lewis, and you don't remember who the fourth one		9	you, yo	u told me you did it in the parking lot. What

n right now is about when you to sell golf tournament tickets for u did it in the parking lot. What parking lot were you doing it in?

MR. HUNN: Objection to form, mischaracterizes the testimony regarding soliciting. That's not what he said.

BY MR. SHOEMAKER:

Okay. When you were asking deputies to take responsibility for selling tickets to the sheriff's golf tournament, you said you were doing that in a parking lot, and I gather you meant the parking lot right outside the sheriff's office? Right outside of the annex or the downtown jail?

MR. HUNN: Objection to form.

BY MR. SHOEMAKER:

Which parking lots were you referring to?

A. No. 19 20 Q. Have you ever asked Hampton sheriff's office deputies or employees to sell tickets to a golf 21 22 tournament for the sheriff? A. Yes. 23 Q. And how often have you done that? 24 25 A. Probably once a year.

Dean was the fourth one.

Do you remember hearing about an incident

between David Dixon and Frances Pope at the polls in

Have you ever solicited any sheriff's

office employees or deputies for support for the

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was?

A.

A.

Q.

November of 2009?

No.

sheriff's reelection efforts?

15 (Pages 54 to 57)

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what other ways did you work to support the sheriff's reelection back in 2009? A. Probably just put up signs. And where would you put up signs? Q. Wherever people allowed us to put up signs. A. Q. Did you ever get deputies to help you put up signs? A. I'm sure we asked them for their help.

Did you work the polls on election day?

You talking about this year?

No, 2009.

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Q.

A.

Q.

and just asks for your support. That's about it.

Do you remember that happening in late summer or fall of 2009?

A. No.

Do you remember the sheriff ever giving a talk in which he was discussing an upcoming campaign and in which he used the phrases "long train" -- quote, "long train," end quote, or, quote, "short train," end quote?

24 A. This year.

> This year he did that? Q.

> > (Pages 58 to 61)

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18 BY MR. SHOEMAKER: 19 Just you and the sheriff. Colonel Bowden Q. 20 wasn't there? 21 A. 22 And Major Wells-Major wasn't there? 23 No, 'cause it was a correctional meeting. A. 24 Q. It was a shift change, wasn't it?

For corrections.

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- A. Just people within the city.
- 19 Were any other members of the sheriff's Q. 20 office serving with you on that committee?
- 21 A. On the Democratic committee?
 - Yeah. Q.
- 23 A. I think Colonel Bowden.
- 24 Q. Anyone else?
 - Eva Bland was out there.

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Sheriff, Colonel, maybe Wells-Major,